

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic album creation system, comprising:
 - a) an album construction window having an open, blank electronic canvas defining an open raster space such that the raster space receives a wide variety of graphics, text, and photos in a random fashion;
 - b) a portfolio window of selected displayed images;
 - c) digital toolbars containing icons that represent artistic and operational functions;
 - d) drag and drop selection means for placing unfinished templates within the blank electronic canvas; and
 - e) personalized creative art tools that define a user's selective input for artistic composition, color, and placement in the electronic album.
2. The electronic album creation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the personalized creative art tools include:
 - e1) a custom artwork template tool;
 - e2) a wallpaper creation tool;
 - e3) a page corner tool; and
 - e4) a photo import and edit window.
3. The electronic album creation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the portfolio window of selected displayed images include:
 - b1) images;
 - b2) artwork; and
 - b3) electronic wallpaper.
4. The electronic album creation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital toolbars include:
 - c1) a delete tool; and
 - c2) a select tool.

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5. A method for creating a personalized electronic album, comprising:

- a) opening an album construction window having a portfolio window of images and a blank album page canvas;
- b) selecting a creative art tool for adding a personal touch to selected images to make personalized artwork; and
- c) creatively modifying the personalized artwork with operations defined in a corresponding toolbar.

6. The method claimed in claim 5, wherein step (b) includes:

- b1) choosing electronic wallpaper;
- b2) choosing a photo and artwork design;
- b3) choosing text; and
- b4) defining a layout of the blank album page canvas.

7. The method claimed in claim 5 wherein step (c) includes:

- c1) pasting the personalized artwork in the blank album page canvas;
- c2) repositioning the personalized artwork in the blank album page canvas; and
- c3) matching resolution and color characteristics of the personalized artwork canvas with the blank album page canvas.

8. A method for making custom artwork, comprising:

- selecting an unfinished template;
- dragging and dropping the selected unfinished template onto a blank electronic canvas;
- filling an area bounded by the blank electronic canvas with color and designs to produce the custom artwork wherein the custom artwork is of a

user-determined size;

accepting and saving the custom artwork; and

placing the custom artwork into an artwork portfolio window.

9. A method for making wallpaper artwork, comprising:

selecting images, foreground artwork, and text;

selecting contents of a portfolio window of wallpaper artwork;

dragging and dropping the selected portfolio window contents onto

a blank electronic canvas;

selecting a wallpaper artwork placement operation from a toolbar;

selecting a wallpaper artwork sizing operation from the toolbar;

and

overlaying wallpaper artwork with the selected images, foreground artwork, and text.

10. A method for making corner artwork, comprising:

selecting photos or artwork;

selecting contents from a portfolio window of artwork and photos;

dragging and dropping the selected portfolio window contents onto

a blank electronic canvas to create an artistic corner;

overlaying the artistic corner with the selected photos or artwork;

selectively arranging a collage order within the artistic corner.

11. A method for incorporating customized images into an electronic album page, comprising:

opening a photo import-editing tool;

performing image processing such as cropping, rotating, resizing, sharpening, tone and color transformation, shaping, and halftoning; and

accepting and saving the customized images in a photo portfolio window for creative use within the electronic album page.

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12. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 5.

13. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 6.

14. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 7.

15. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 8.

16. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 9.

17. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 10.

18. A computer program product for performing the method of claim 11.

19. The electronic album creation system claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

f) means for implementing the unfinished templates to enable the user to apply techniques that are available with manual artistic album methods; and

g) means for arranging a plurality of recording elements in an array for recording an image on a receiver medium.

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